

REMARKS

Claims 17, 18, 24, 25, 34, 35, 40, 41, 49, 50, 56, and 57 are pending in the application, of which claims all claim were indicated to be allowable by the Examiner during the interview of August 23, 2005, as summarized below. Claims 17, 18, 24, 25, 34, 35, 40, 41, 49, 50, 56, and 57 have been re-written in independent form, incorporating the subject matter of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 1-16, 19-23, 26-33, 36-39, 42-48, and 51-55 have been canceled without prejudice.

STATEMENT UNDER 1.113(b)

The undersigned representative would like to thank the Examiner for the courtesy of the telephone interview of August 23, 2005 in which the undersigned and Examiner Deak participated.

During the interview the Examiner agreed that Beil (US 6,146,354) is not prior art against the present application. The Examiner indicated that claims 17, 18, 24, 25, 34, 35, 40, 41, 49, 50, 56, and 57 would be allowable if re-written in independent form, incorporating the subject matter of the base claim and any intervening claims.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 11-14, 23, and 42-46 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by US 4,838,881 to Bennett. Applicants have canceled such claims, rendering their rejection moot.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 15-16, 21, 47, 48, and 53 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US 4,838,881 to Bennett. Applicants have canceled such claims, rendering their rejection moot.

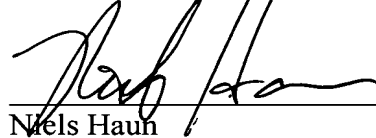
Claims 17, 18, 22, 24, 25, 49, 50, and 54-57 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bennett in view of Beil. Beil is not prior art, and, therefore, the Examiner has agreed that the claims currently pending in the application are allowable. Thus, Applicants understand that the rejection is overcome.

Reply under 37 CFR 1.116 – Expedited Procedure - Technology Center 3762
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Claims 19, 20, 26, 27-41, and 51 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bennett in view of Beil in further view of US 5,395,316 to Martin. Beil is not prior art, and, therefore, the Examiner has agreed that the claims currently pending in the application are allowable. Thus, Applicants understand that the rejection is overcome.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that the claims in this application are now in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned in the event that a telephone interview will advance prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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